

## Things for the Working Group to Consider When Reviewing the Michel Coal VC Selection Document

### VC Characteristics

- *Relevant* to at least one of the five pillars (environment/economy/social/health/heritage) and clearly linked to the values reflected in the issues raised in respect of the project
- *Comprehensive*, so that taken together, the VCs selected for an assessment should enable a full understanding of the important potential effects of the project.
- *Representative* of the important features of the natural and human environment likely to be affected by the project.
- *Responsive* to the potential effects of the project.
- *Concise*, so that the nature of the project-VC interaction and the resulting effect pathway can be clearly articulated and understood, and redundant analysis is avoided.

### VC Appropriateness

- Is the component present in the local or regional project area?
- Does the project (infrastructure and activities) have the potential to interact with and adversely affect the component?
- Is there potential for significant adverse cumulative effects? (What known stressors are already occurring on the land base?)
- Is the component particularly sensitive or vulnerable to disturbance?

### Other Considerations

- Does the draft VC document capture VCs which will allow a full understanding of the potential adverse effects of the project?
- Does the rationale for including or excluding VCs make sense? What are other the considerations in VC selection?
- Will the indicators selected enable adequate characterization of the impacts to each VC?  
*Indicators frequently comprise an aspect of the VC that is important to the integrity of the VC and can be used to measure, understand and evaluate the potential effect on the VC.*
- Are the VC boundaries appropriate as defined?
  - *The Local Study Area typically comprises an area within which all (or most) potential project effects are expected to occur.*
  - *The Regional Study Area is used to provide context for the assessment of potential project effects and are considered in the assessment of cumulative effects.*
  - *Temporal boundaries encompass the periods during which the project is expected to have potential effects on the selected VCs.*